



Highlights

New faces

Meet more new squadron commanders on *Page 2*.

Checking in

AAFES incorporates new check verification system on *Page 3*.

Action Line

Readers ask about smoking at stables and construction at Freedom Park on *Page 4*.

Egress mission

See the 57th Component Repair Squadron's Egress shop in the seat of the action on *Page 8*.

First lady

First woman prepares to command a space shuttle mission on *Page 10*.

Depression

Mental health professional shares depression insight based on a letter of tragedy on *Page 11*.

All in the attitude

99th SVS commander talks about attitude adjustments on *Page 12*.

Itsy-bitsy spider

Learn about potentially dangerous bugs found in the Las Vegas on *Page 13*.

Salute

Team Nellis' finest players recognized on *Page 15*.

Web site

Check out the *Bullseye* online at www.



Photo by Mr. John Broussard

All wet

Airman Darieus Hudson, 99th Security Forces Squadron, checks Ms. Sara McMillian, a Nellis Commissary employee's, ID card during a flash flood warning Saturday. During the past week Nellis received .95 inches of rain -- nearly half the average Las Vegas annual rainfall, which is 2.5 inches.

AF preps for new system

Public comments sought on F-22 beddown at Nellis

By Mr. Mike Estrada
AWFC Public Affairs

Public hearings were held in Southern Nevada Tuesday through Thursday to gather comments about the findings of a draft environmental impact statement for the proposed beddown of the F-22 fighter aircraft at Nellis.

These hearings are a critical part in the environmental impact analysis process. They offer the public a chance to comment on the draft findings in a study of potential impacts to the environ-

See F-22 on Page 2

Western Range helps with F-22 Raptor tests

By Staff Sgt. Andrew Leonhard
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFPN) — An F-22 Raptor from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., flew to Vandenberg's Western Range recently to test the range's capability to receive telemetry data from the Raptor and relay it back to Edwards, and to test the flight dynamics of the aircraft.

The aircraft was flown by test pilot Lt. Col. David Nelson, Air Force Operational Test Center deputy for F-22 operations. Col. Nelson

See Raptor on Page 2



Photo by Airman Mark Kuhta

Lt. Col. B. Dawn Wheeler, new 99th Security Forces Squadron commander, greets fellow troop, Tech. Sgt. Robert Wyatt.

Commander up close

Name: Lt. Col. B. Dawn Wheeler

Unit: 99th Security Forces Squadron

Date assumed command: July 13

Previous job/assignment: Deputy Support Group commander, Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.

Time in service: 21 years

Commissioning source: Officer Training School

Family: Husband, Mike and two cats, Bear and Nicky

Hobbies: Exploring

Why is your unit important to the Air Force mission? National security is the Air Force mission.

What is your command philosophy? Take care of your troops and they will take care of the mission.

What are your goals? I want to allow this squadron to continue their tradition of excellence and I'm thrilled to be given this 4th chance to command.

Meet the new F-16 division commander

Name: Lt. Col. Todd E. Denning

Unit: USAF Weapons School F-16 Division

Date assumed command: July 6

Previous job/assignment: Operations officer, USAFWS F-16 Division

Time in service: 18 years

Commissioning source: U.S. Air Force Academy, 1981

Family: Wife, Kayleen and sons, Andy, 10 and Tim, 9

Hobbies: Fitness, military history, metal working

Why is your unit important to the Air Force mission? The F-16 Division produces the most highly qualified operational instructor pilots and tactical advisors in the F-16 community, worldwide. Our graduates are the core talent responsible for training all F-16 units and leading all combat-related mission planning and mission execution in those units. The multi-role fighter business is a tough one to master and our course develops the knowledge, skill and personal drive to conquer this immense task.

What is your command philosophy? To make sure my troops understand our mission completely and they are afforded the best possible environment in which to



Photo by Senior Airman Demetria L. Gibson

Capt. Dan Godier, USAF Weapons School F-16 Division, takes instruction from Lt. Col. Todd Denning, commander.

accomplish it. I constantly seek the highest standard of warrior professionalism and richly reward those who lead the way to new heights.

What are your goals? As the commander, my goal is to team with the professionals of FALCON Aircraft Maintenance Flight to produce the 48 finest weapons and tactics officers seen to date over the next two years.

I intend to do that by adhering

absolutely to the tenants of my command philosophy and by carefully analyzing our F-16 operations worldwide for changes and improvements needed to better serve our operational commanders in the field. Our graduates will know the F-16 inside and out, how to employ it in any theater of war at any time, and most importantly, will spread that knowledge within their units to maximize combat capability.



File photo

F-22

Continued from Page 1

ment if the F-22 beddown is approved. The process began in 1997 when members of the public were asked to help provide direction for the analysis by sharing their concerns. Some of the issues raised and studied during the last two years include aircraft noise, sonic booms, air quality and environmental justice.

The draft environmental impact statement considers these and other issues. It is available for review at many libraries in Southern Nevada prior to the public hearings. All comments about the draft received between Monday and August 2 will be reviewed, considered and addressed in the final environmental impact statement. The final document will be used by Air Force leaders to decide if the F-22 beddown at Nellis will proceed.

Any questions about the beddown or where copies of the DEIS are available can be directed to Mr. Mike Estrada at 652-2750 or at 1-800-859-3804. Libraries with the F-22 draft document are listed on the web at www.nellis.af.mil/pa/f22deis.htm.

Written comments on the draft EIS can be submitted for the record by mailing them to Don Kellogg, HQ AFCEE/ECPI, 3207 North Road, Brooks AFB, Texas 78235-5363.

Raptor

Continued from Page 1

flew about two hours over the Western Range, 50 miles off the coast in an area about 200-miles long and 115-miles wide.

"Flight dynamics are how the plane flies," Col. Nelson explained. "In this flight, we tested the plane's handling qualities during very slow speed maneuvers at 35,000 feet with a moderate angle of attack.

"We will be doing more flight dynamic tests here to help us prepare to use the Western Range for supercruise flight," he said. Supercruise is the ability to sustain supersonic speeds without afterburner.

This capability greatly expands the F-22's speed and range over current fighters that must use afterburner to operate at supersonic speeds. The F-22's combination of reduced observability and supercruise increases the ad-

vantage of surprise in a tactical environment.

"Being able to use the range during supercruise testing will have less of an impact on populated areas," said Col. Nelson. "The Western Range gives the plane a lot more room to fly in without other air traffic."

The Western Range controls about 1,000 miles of airspace used by military and commercial prototype and production aircraft, according to Mr. Walter Schobel, 30th Range Squadron chief of the airspace and offshore management section.

The fast, agile and stealthy F-22 will take over the air-dominance role with Air Combat Command starting in 2004, according to information from Lockheed Martin and Boeing, assuring United States continued control of the skies during combat well into the next century.

Edwards has two F-22s and the Air Force plans to buy 339 F-22s through 2012.

AAFES incorporates new check verification program

DALLAS (AFPN) — Each year, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service loses millions of dollars as a result of bad checks. In 1998 alone, more than 500,000 bad checks worth over \$56 million dollars were received by AAFES.

While much of this is subsequently collected through various means, a substantial amount is eventually written off as uncollectable.

The use of fraudulent or transposed Social Security numbers is a major factor contributing to the amount of this uncollectable debt. Not only do bad checks represent a loss to the exchange, they also reduce the amount of money that is given back to soldiers and airmen in the form of morale, welfare and recreation payments.

To help reduce this cost, AAFES has recently incorporated a check verification against its Corporate Customer Database as part of its check authorization procedure. The AAFES CCD is a collection of authorized sponsor and family member data received from the military Defense Eligibility

New check verification system steps

— Customers will present their check and ID at the register/cash cage.

— A customer's Social Security number is then verified and entered into the register.

— The register automatically checks CVS and CCD in order to validate the check transaction.

Enrollment Reporting System, the AAFES Personnel Management Information System, and the personnel systems of Navy and Marine Corps exchanges.

In the past, this database has been used primarily to identify authorized customers for special mailings and announcements of sales events. AAFES recently conducted a test using the CCD in conjunction with its Check Verification System at several exchanges in the continental United States. Because the tests were successful, AAFES conducted further training and implemented the use of the CCD throughout its Central Region May 3, and the rest of U.S. exchanges June 1. AAFES expanded the use of CCD in the

overseas locations Thursday.

This change should not affect the vast majority of customers writing and cashing checks in AAFES facilities, said AAFES officials, adding that the change will be seamless for those customers in the CCD. In those instances where the customer is not in the AAFES CCD, the customer may be asked to use another form of payment and/or to supply information necessary for researching and/or adding customer data to CCD.

The implementation of this additional step in the check verification process will greatly assist AAFES in successfully combating check writing fraud, said officials.

New base service to open

Individual Equipment Element is scheduled to be outsourced to Lions Club Industries Inc. in mid-August. In conjunction with IEE outsourcing, Lions Club will also reestablish a Base Service Store providing base personnel an added convenience of purchasing office supplies directly on base.

This new service includes delivery service for units located at Indian Springs.

According to officials, the outsourcing effort is intended to improve material availability and customer service through close interaction with customers.

Patrons will make all purchases using the Government International Merchants purchase Authorization Card.

The new IEEBSS facility will be located in Bldg. 443 on Tyndall Ave. Normal operations will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. In the event of emergency or contingency after normal duty hours, Lions Club will respond within two hours of notification.

For more information, call Mrs. Dawn Foster at 652-7730.

Air Force schedules pilot, navigator selection board

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The Air Force plans to hold its next undergraduate flying training selection board Oct. 26 at the Air Force Personnel Center here with the selection board reviewing applications for both pilot and navigator training.

Officers born after July 1, 1970, and total active federal commissioned service date after April 1, 1995, are eligible to apply for UFT. Applicants requesting an age or commission service waiver should follow the criteria and format outlined in Air Force Instruction 36-2205.

Applicants must send an application, postmarked by Sept. 17, to HQ AFPC/DPAOT3, 550 C Street West Suite 31, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4733. Those applying should advise their supervisors and/or the individuals providing AF Form 215 of the application deadline.

Officers requiring a new physical exam should schedule the appropriate physical well in advance. All applicants competing for pilot training must also complete the basic attributes test.

For more information on application procedures, contact the base formal training element section at 652-9440.

Search team deploys to Vietnam

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii (AFPN) — A team of 111 mostly Hawaii-based U.S. military specialists left for Vietnam July 9 with hopes of recovering remains that may lead to the identification of American service members listed as missing in action since the war in Southeast Asia.

Members from Joint Task Force-Full Accounting at Camp Smith and the U.S. Army's Central Identification Lab at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, joined technical representatives from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to begin joint investigations and remains recovery operations in 22 Vietnamese provinces Tuesday. Forty-seven cases involving aircraft and ground losses are scheduled for investigation during the 30-day operation. There are also six primary excavation sites and 10 alternate locations.

Since 1973, the remains of 523 American service members, formerly listed as unaccounted for, have been identified and returned to their families. There are currently 2,060 Americans still unaccounted for from the war in Southeast Asia, 1,534 in Vietnam.

This will be the 41st Joint Field Activity conducted in Vietnam, and the 101st overall JFA in the tri-country region of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia since Joint Task Force-Full Accounting was formed in January 1992 at Camp Smith.

Warrior of the Week

Airman Sarah Harrison

99th Medical Group



Photo by Senior Airman Demetria L. Gibson

Duty Title: Medical services apprentice

Hometown: Riverside, Calif.

Time in the Air Force: 1 year

Time at Nellis: 4 months

Hobbies: Water sports, spending time with family and shopping.

Goals: To complete my Career Development Course and to get a master's degree in education.

If I could improve one thing on Nellis: I would like to see the bowling center renovated.

Most significant Air Force memories: Meeting my husband and basic training graduation.

What I like most about my job: Seeing the expression on a parent's face when their baby has just been born and being able to experience the excitement with them.